

IMAGINings!

A Publication of The ImagiNation Network, Inc.

• August 1995

VOL. 3 • NO. 6



At last year's gathering in Danbury, Conn., several dozen friends from the Married Life room in the Clubhouse got together to present member Ernie Martinez, Jr. with medals that he had earned in the Vietnam War but had never formally been presented to him. ImagiNation Network members shown left to right are "Elcee," "Steve," Ernie Martinez, Jr., (known online as "Cynano"), "Meme" and "Mazie".

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

Wonder whether that card shark you've been playing against can keep a poker face in real life? Been thinking you'd like to meet the person behind those impassioned postings on your favorite Bulletin Board? If you're thinking about getting together with some of your very best friends in ImagiNation for a face-to-face meeting, consider going to a Member Gathering.

Each year, hundreds of ImagiNation Network members

meet each other in the "real world" at Member Gatherings held all across the country.

You'll find a partial listing of get-togethers in this issue of *Imaginings*, on page 2. But check the INN Member Get-Togethers bulletin board in the INN Help Room of the Clubhouse for the most complete listings available.

And if you don't see what you're looking for, organize a get-together yourself!

LOWER WEEKDAY RATES!

Want to avoid paying \$6 per hour for weekday access to the ImagiNation Network? Now you can, thanks to our new partnership with AT&T and their network of PREFERRED local access numbers you can use to dial in.

When you install your software for Version 2.4 you can choose a new local access number for dialing into the ImagiNation Network. In many parts of the country, members will be able to choose lower weekday rates by selecting a Preferred Access Number—marked on the install screen with an asterisk.

We'll be sending you easy, step-by-step instructions on how to install your new software and select a preferred local access number if one is available in your area. In many cases, this number will already be highlighted for you.

But just in case it is not, move the highlighted area to a number marked with an asterisk. When you do, you will avoid paying the \$6 weekday rate for online access between the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. PLUS, the online hours included in your Membership Plan will be accessible 24 hours a day.

Although Preferred Local Access Numbers are not available in all parts of the country, we'll be adding more in the coming year.

Lower rates and 24 hour a day access? Thanks, AT&T!

ASK Fred

Hey Fred!

Hi! I'm interested in starting a new club here in the ImagiNation Network. How do I go about starting one?

— Jessica

Dear Jessica:

Well, the first thing you've got to do is register your club. It's easy enough to do this, fortunately. Just write to the ImagiNation Network Conference Manager at E-mail Box 931. When you send the Conference Manager all the info about your club, it'll be listed online in the Town Hall and you can get even more people interested in joining. PLUS, you'll get a conference reservation in a room of the Clubhouse so that you won't be scrounging around on your own to find a quiet place to meet. Good luck! Clubs are lots of fun.

Hey Fred!

I don't mean to be unfriendly, but there's this person online who keeps saying very rude things to me. Being nice back just isn't working. Any advice?

— Bummed

Dear Bummed:

Yes, it's a drag when someone just won't be polite online. My motto is, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." No one should have to put up with rude, crude behavior from another member. Not anytime, anywhere. So, you might want to try this: First, tell the person you don't appreciate their comments. Then, if they persist, press the MUTE button so that you don't have to hear anything more from them during the time you're online that session. And remember that you can also press the COMPLAIN button if you feel that the comments have violated Community Standards. A copy of the Community Standards is posted online in the Town Hall, by the way. Good luck, and remember that one bad apple doesn't spoil the whole bunch!

Got a question for Fred, your "In the Know" guy on the ImagiNation Network? Write to Fred in care of Imagivox at E-mail Box 913 or 577 Airport Blvd., Suite 300, Burlingame, CA 94010

UPCOMING member gatherings

DO IT YOURSELF

If you find yourself in the position of "cruise director" for a member get-together, consider these tips from longtime ImagiNation Network member Shelley Covalence, known online as "Laughter". She has organized several member gatherings in her time, including the April, 1994, get-together in Fresno, Calif. and the "Laughing Lunatic Lazy Lancaster Layover" held March 1995 in Lancaster, Calif.

- Make sure to plan enough activities to keep folks busy, but don't overwhelm them with too much to do. A certain amount of activities helps get the ball rolling, just don't overestimate the need people have to relax and proceed at their own pace.

- Create opportunities for people to make new friends. Choose "get to know you" games and other activities that make it easy for people to introduce themselves.
- Plan an event that is affordable for a wide variety of people. Not everyone can afford a weekend getaway to an exotic locale. When choosing a city for your get-together, consider the affordability factor in airfare, hotels, meals, and so on.
- Give people options for activities. Smaller groups are more conducive to building friendships. Instead of one big group outing, you might let people choose between an afternoon sightseeing tour or an informal get-together at the hotel pool.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

Member-run gatherings give people a chance to meet up close and in person. Check this list for a Member Gathering close to home.

But remember, this is a partial list only — for a complete listing of member gatherings, check periodically on the INN Member Get Togethers bulletin board in the INN Help Room of the Clubhouse.

August 13
Corolino Gathering
For more info, write to
E-mail Box 218749

August 19
Hoyword, California Picnic
For more info, contact Fuzzt at
E-mail Box 165813

September 14-17
Annual Gathering of Donbury, Connecticut
For more info, contact Cyrono at
E-mail Box 34317

October 26-29
Texas Gathering of San Antonio
For more info, contact TxRose at
E-mail Box 165834

HOOKED ON IMAGINATION?

Get up to 10 FREE hours in addition to great monthly savings when you trade your current membership plan for a higher plan! Why pay more for additional hours surcharges? Trade up to a more cost-effective plan that best suits your needs today! Open the letter "Trade Up!" in your mailbox or go to the Member Services shop in the Mall and click on "Trade Up for FREE HOURS!" for details.

PLAY MAXIS TRIVIA!

Remember to play Maxis Trivia online in the ImagiNation Network through September. You'll be tested on your knowledge of top Maxis games such as SimCity 2000, Sim Isle, Sim Tower, Klik & Play and Print Artist. Maxis Trivia takes place on NTN Trivia the second Saturday of the month.



ASK member services!

REAL QUESTIONS FROM REAL MEMBERS TO IMAGINATION'S MEMBER SERVICES

Q: Why is it that every time I try to connect to the ImagiNation Network I hear a busy signal?

A: Verify that you are calling a valid access phone number for the ImagiNation Network. To do this, type INSTALL from the directory in which you installed the ImagiNation Network (usually C:\INN). On the Installation Choices screen, highlight ACCESS PHONE # and press [Enter]. Press the [F1] function key, enter your area code and press [Enter] again. Highlight a phone number from the provided list and press [Enter]. Follow the on-screen prompts. If the problem persists, please report the busy access phone number to Member Services.

Q: How do I quit 3-D Golf?

A: Press [Alt-X], or press [Ctrl-Q] or press [Ctrl-Esc].

Q: How do I get into Cosinoland?

A: Since CasinoLand is the casino games area for members 18 years or older, we must receive proof that you are 18 years of age or older for access. To obtain CasinoLand access, simply write us a note stating

that you are in fact 18 years of age or older, sign it and fax it to us at (209) 642-0885. You can also request CasinoLand access online in the ImagiNation Network Mall or you can mail a request to us at P.O. Box 1550, Oakhurst, CA 93644. However, if you don't see CasinoLand in the upper left-hand corner of the Map, your copy of the software may not include it. If this is the case, you can call Member Services to order an upgrade. Also, if you installed from a single 3.5" disk, you will need to install the full version of the ImagiNation Network software that is automatically mailed to you once you become a member.

Q: How do I make the little smiley faces that I see in people's conversations?

A: To create these "emoticons," press the [Alt] key along with any number from the row of number keys at the top of your keyboard.

☺ Smile	[Alt 1]
☹ Sadness	[Alt 2]
😄 Laughter	[Alt 3]
😭 Tears	[Alt 4]
😘 A kiss	[Alt 5]
😡 Anger	[Alt 6]
😈 Sarcasm	[Alt 7]
😜 Wink	[Alt 8]
♥ Love	[Alt 9]
ⓧ Not allowed	[Alt 0]

WANT TO SHARE YOUR IMAGINATION?

Get the 5 easiest hours you'll ever earn online when you tell us whom to invite into the ImagiNation family!! It's easy - we'll do all the work and you get the free hours! Go to your

ImagiNation mailbox, open the letter with the return address "5 Free Hrs" and follow the brief instructions. Or, go to the Mall and click on "Refer a Friend= Free Hours" for details.



WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!

Get to know the ImagiNation Network community and win 2 FREE HOURS by participating in the New Member Scavenger Hunt! It's fun-just open the "Welcome" letter in your mailbox where six special questions await you! The answer to each question is a letter of the alphabet. Unscramble all 6 letters to form a common word and you're a Scavenger Hunt winner! Go ahead, get out there and chat with HOSTs and other members for clues.

Current members, please encourage our newcomers to play!



ARE YOU A WINNER?

Want a new ImagiNation Network T-shirt? The ONLY way to get one is to be a winner. These special, newly-designed T-shirts will be sent only to members who win ImagiNation-sponsored online events.

IT'S A FREE-FOR-ALL

MicroSpeed, the maker of joysticks, is sponsoring a Free-For-All Red Boron contest in September. What's Free-For-All Red Boron, you ask? It is one of the new games that we're shipping with Version 2.4.

Look for details online within the coming month. Winners in the 12-week tournament receive a MicroSpeed joystick.

Get in Shape!



SIERRA®



COMMIT TO EXCELLENCE™

FRONT PAGE SPORTS
FOOTBALL
ONLINE

Football leagues start in September, so load up the software and begin practicing your game as soon as you receive Front Page Sports™ Football Online in your free upgrade kit for Version 2.4. You'll want to be in top shape for these special online tournaments!

Front Page Sports™ Football Online gives you all the drama, excitement and white-knuckled competition of the real NFL, but from the comfort of your very own home. With your software, you'll find a quick cord and access to a text-only game manual free of charge.

But if you want the real scoop on how to play the game and win, go to the INN Store in the ImagiNation Network Mall and order the official game manual. This manual, filled with diagrams and insider tips, is available for just \$6.95.

Still need help getting in shape for the big game? We'll soon be opening up several new bulletin boards and hint boards for Front Page Sports™ Football Online. Look for hints on how to improve your own game, as well as insightful comments from the experts about the NFL season.

Ready? Break!

NEW ROOMS ONLINE!

Some new rooms are opening up online in the ImagiNation Network. Check them out!



In The Shadow of Yserbius:

- ◆ Knight Watch
- ◆ Ranger Retreat

In The Fates of Twinion:

- ◆ Thief Hideout
- ◆ The Bat Caverns



In the Clubhouse:

- ◆ SciFi Station
- ◆ The Forum
- ◆ The Studio
- ◆ SuperHWY Hall



In SierraLand:

- ◆ SkyWar Alley
- ◆ Dice Den

FIND Your Place Online

Hundreds of clubs, groups and special events meet online every week in the ImagiNation Network. For the most current listings, go to the Town Hall and look at the CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.

All times listed are Pacific time. Conferences listed with an asterisk are private and require approval from the conference's host (displayed in parentheses with the contact person's mailbox number) to attend.

Once you find a conference you're interested in, make a note of the room name, and the time and day listed. The room names are waiting rooms in the Clubhouse. Once in

the waiting room, click on the GO To button, select A CONFERENCE, and then click on the conference name for your meeting—you'll join immediately!

And remember, you can always start your own club or group! Just drop a line to E-mail Box 931. It's that easy!

New to Imagination?

Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time, get the information you need to navigate the world of ImagiNation. These special classes for new members start at the top of each hour in the HELP ROOM.



WE'LL BE SEEING YOU!

If you're planning to attend the GenCon Game Fair in Milwaukee August 10-13, please stop by and see us at our booth. We'll be showing off a new, soon-to-be-released game for MedievalLand, and will also be teaching newcomers how to play our old favorites "The Shadow of Yserbius" and

"The Fates of Twinion."

GenCon is the largest game convention in the United States, with visitors from all over the country. We'll be giving away free starter kits to people who have not yet tried the ImagiNation Network. We'll also have special prizes on hand for some lucky visitors.

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Imaginings Editor, at E-mail Box 915
Drop a line to Gretchen Lee,
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

membership, call 1-800-IMAGIN-1.
Network or ask questions about your
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Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of
Network, The ImagiNation Network.
for members of the ImagiNation
Imagings is published monthly

DATED MATERIAL

577 Airport Blvd., Suite 300
Burlingame, CA 94010

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9 AUGUST 1995

IMAGINATION!™ The Last Word

As more people join the world of online computing, safety becomes an important concern, particularly for families with children.

The ImagiNation Network is committed to making our online service as safe and enjoyable as possible. We've put in place several excellent features to ensure that everyone, kids included, can find good and safe entertainment online. When you make sure your family knows how to use these features, you're making sure that the system works for you!

We've developed the most secure entertainment environment available, with important features to help kids and parents feel safe and in control. One is the MUTE button — press it when you don't want to hear from a particular member during your current session. The other is the COMPLAIN button — press it if you feel the Community Standards posted online in the Town Hall have been violated. The COMPLAIN button forwards a copy to us of the comments made for review and possible disciplinary action.

Perhaps the most important feature, though, doesn't involve any buttons or programming. It involves parents who take an active interest in their children's activities. Take time now to teach your kids how to use all the options available to them online, and let them know they can have fun online in the ImagiNation Network!

See you online!



Dean A. DeBiase
President and CEO

Update

Our Member Services call center,
at 1-800-IMAGIN-1, is now
open 2 hours earlier! Our new
hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. PST